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The first step for this six year study is to determine the colleges that will be used to collect data. The Wisconsin colleges will be selected using ArcGIS software in order to assist in this study. There will be ten state schools selected to be study and those same schools will also be used to create a buffer. Any private schools within this buffer will also be selected for the study.

After the schools are selected, the research team will travel to the selected schools to explain the study. The team will have materials to explain the study and its potential benefits to the schools. The team will need to obtain permission and support from the colleges in order to conduct the study properly.

After permission is given, a survey will be conducted regarding Wisconsin college students and their drinking habits. This survey will be conducted three times over the six year study in order to see the effectiveness of the alcohol education program and potential economic benefits. The study will be conducted by an outside professional survey company. The outside company will be used in order to ensure proper data collection and to make the study more efficient.

The survey will ask students between the ages of eighteen and twenty five questions concerning when a person started drinking, how much alcohol is typically consumed the type of alcohol, and how often

they drink. If the participants respond that they have drank before, they will be asked more specific questions such as, where they drink, if they have a false identification card and if so how often they use it. This data will be analyzed to help create a picture of the alcohol consumption on campuses.

Local hospitals will also be used as a source of information for this study. Hospitals will be asked to submit how many alcohol related cases come in each month. The study will compare how many minors come in with alcohol related problems verses people who are of age. This information can also reveal the types of problems that these people have as well. For example, how many come in with serious issues such as alcohol poisoning versus the amount dealing with other injuries that resulted from being intoxicated. Data on the demographics of minors coming in with alcohol related cases could also be collected. This could determine whether or not gender has any role to play in alcohol related injuries. Specific personal information will not be used in the survey.

To help verify this data police departments will be contacted in order to find out which bars and stores have sold alcohol to underage drinkers in order to see how easily accessible alcohol is to minors. Another way to obtain this information would be to work with the police. One method to complete this data collection would be to hire

minors to go into various locations where alcohol is sold and to see if they are able to purchase alcohol or if they are asked to show a form of identification. Also, minors could be asked to stand outside locations that sell alcohol and ask customers going into the stores to purchase alcohol for the minor if given money. Performing this research would show how many of age individuals are willing to purchase alcohol for minors.

After each of the three years of data collection is complete, the ArcGIS software will be used to analyze the data and determine any potential benefits of lowering the legal drinking age. The data could be used to compare how much money is spent on alcohol consumption by census tract. The research team will be specifically interested in the tracts where the selected colleges are located. The data will be compared by the three intervals of the study to see if there is any change in the amount of money spent on alcohol consumption. The data from hospitals and police stations will also be used to create a map to compare the data to see if there has been a positive change in the drinking habits of the selected schools.

In effort to have minors be more responsible with alcohol consumption at a younger age, new laws will be implemented. In high school, teens will be required to take an alcohol education classes. In these classes, students will learn about different topics such as the

chemistry of alcohol and the consequences of abuse (Streeter 2009). Students will also be required to sit in on Alcoholics Anonymous sessions (Streeter 2009). They would be required to pass an exam, which would mean they would gain a license to drink (Streeter 2009). If students gain this license and then violate it, the license will be taken away (Streeter 2009).

In order to see if the alcohol education program is effective, the research team will also use the ArcGIS software to analyze the data. The team will determine if there is any difference in the amount of alcohol related traffic accidents, injuries, and fatalities. If there has been a decrease in these items, then the research team will be able to determine that the alcohol education program is working effectively.